Kuwaiti lawmakers propose matawa panel

KUWAIT (AP) - Five Islamist lawmakers have proposed a committee to protect Islamic religious values in the emirate, press reports said Tuesday.

Arab Times, an English-language daily, said the committee would spread good values through "gentle advice" and fighting alien traditions and customs that contradict Islamic teachings and traditions. According to the draft law published by the paper, members of the comminee will not patrol the streets with whips to make shopkeepers close down during patrol the streets with whips to make shopkeepers close down during prayer time or forcing women to cover their hair, something akin to the role of the matawa in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. It passed by the parliament and approved by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the committee would include 15 members: Seven representatives of government ministries and eight members of the public. The draft said they would receive complaints from the public, relay them to the concerned government agency and follow up on measures taken by the sovernment in that receive our of the 50 cardioment members. government in that regard. Nineteen out of the 50 parliament members are Islamists, an unprecedented number in the legislature's history. Kuwait witnessed a return-to-religion movement during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation and after liberation.

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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1993, RAMADAN 10, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan

surprised by

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials

Tuesday expressed bewilderment

ing American citizens against

"terrorist" threats in the King-

Information Minister

Mahmoud Al Sharif asserted

there was no fear for tourists and

residents in the country, saying

that Jordan "is absolutely one of

the safest places in the Middle

for them to fear anything bere,"

he told the Jordan Times Tues-

"There is absolutely no reason

The U.S. State Department

Monday warned Americans in

Jordan against "heightened

threats at this time of terrorism,"

saying information available to

the U.S. government "suggest" a

threat to Americans in the conn-

try, especially those travelling by

U.S. embassy sources in Am-

"(The statement) is puzzling,"

Mr. Sharif said. "I don't see any

While government officials

would not comment on the mo-

tives behind the warning, a poli-

tical observer who requested

anonymity said the U.S. might be

fearing repercussions for its fai-

lure to deal property with the question of Palestinian expellees. The United States initially sup-ported U.N. Security Council Re-

solution 799, which calls for the

immediate return to the occupied

territories of about 400 Palesti-

nians expelled to southern Leba-

non by Israel in December, but it

later brokered a separate deal

with Israel that many in the re-

man declined comment.

reason for it.'

at an American statement warn-

U.S. travel

warning

danese detained **UAE** released

ARTOUM (AP) - Two

lanese detained in the United

b Emirates (UAE) for six ks were quoted Tuesday as ing that they were tortured ing their imprisonment. Since 1990 Gulf war, in which in our training danese supported Iraq, relabetween Khartoum and ns between Khartoum and ulf countries have been rained. Sudanese have been trassed and several have been aprisoned and deported by the AE government. On returning ome, they claimed they were stured during detention. In the test incident, the government's idan News Agency said two indanese have returned home all two others remain imprisoned in UAE. The four were arrested lan; 3 in connection with alleged contacts with Sudan's Muslim Amdamentalist movement. They were not officially charged.

iran minister survives no-confidence vote

MICOSIA (AP) — Iran's minister of transportation, Mohammad Sacedi-Kya, Tuesday escaped a vote of no-confidence by parliament, where he was summoned to explain recent air and train dissisters in which 205 people were killed, Tehran Television reported. The broadcast said Mr. Saesdi Kya received 121 votes in favour, and the same number against him, from the 270member chamber. The rest of the deputies were either not present or abstained. The minister would have been impeached only if two thirds of the deputies voted against him.

Iran's state security the a value of forces get new intelligence chief

NICOSIA (AP) - Iran's supreme leader Tuesday appointed Mobammad Reza Naqdi, a middle-ranking officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, as head of intelligence for the internal security forces. n mab. thran Radio reported. The broadcast said Mr.Naqdi was W. 700 appointed by Ayatollah Ali amenei, the country's spiritual leader and commander-in-chief 124 p. 16 of the armed forces, to head the 1 15 1576 "security and information" secide: an tion of the "disciplinary forces." The forces control state security. including drug enforcement and police. The radio said Mr. Naqdi was an officer in the Islamie Revolutionary Guards Corps., the country's main fighting force, and that Khamenei's decree promoted him to the rank of brigadier general. It gave no other details about him, and little else is known about Mr. Naqdi, who has not figured among the country's top brass. The radio to did not give any information about Brigadier-General Reza Scifollahi, who was appointed head of security and intelligence by Ayatollah Khamenei in April $\sim 1000~{\rm P}^{\rm sc}$ 1991. It was not clear whether Mr. Naqdi would replace him or work with him. Mr. Naqdi's "transfer" is somewhat artificial, since the disciplinary forces are part of the guards corps.

Suspected extremist shot in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — A policeman Tuesday shot and wounded a Suspected Muslim extremist while earching his house for arms, Police said, A police official said e incident occurred at the town Manfalout just North of the Muslim fundamentalist hotbed of Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Curo. The official said that hand Alameddin, a bird seller, fired at Captain Ashraf Dahi while he was searching his house for weapons and ammunition. (\$5.43.⁰⁰⁰ The officer had to return fire." the official said. Alameddin was his in the arm and leg and taken his bospital, he added. The informant said Alameddin was sus-Pested of providing money and 15,000 M Islamiya. The group wants to the state of the s replace it with an Iran-like medical the medical police and the medical police. the last year began attacktourists. Muslim extremists we claimed responsibility for a state on a Cairo coffee the state of Textilist mark. Two Americans, a Frenchlan and a Canadian were among wounded.

Palestinian, settler killed amid army siege of Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM -A 75-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by an Israeli settler in Arah Jerusalem and another Israeli was killed in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, hours after the Israeli army sealed off the coastal strip after the fatal stab-

bing of two Israelis.
The elderly Palestinian, identified as Jumah Abdul Aziz Misk, was shot and killed by an Israeli settler whose car was allegedly stoned in the Ras Al Amond neighbourhood of Arah East Jerusalem, reports said. Mr. Misk was reported dead on arrival at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital.

Elsewhere in Gaza, three Palestinians were wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators in-Khan Yunis, Israeli reports said, Israeli radios said the Israeli man killed Tuesday was about 40.

They said he apparently made a wrong turn and approached the Rafah refugee camp, which is near the border with Egypt. The victim was both stoned and

shot, according to the radios and an official at Gaza settlers council, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The radios said several bullet casings from a Kalashnikov rifle were found at the site of the 2:30

roadside bomb exploded Tuesday

near a U.N. peacekeepers' vehi-

cle in South Lebanon and artil-

lery shells crashed around the

camp where nearly 400 Palesti-

nian expellees are stranded. No

Meanwhile, civilians engaged

in fist fights with members of the

Iranian-backed Hizbollah to de-

mand a halt to the use of their

villages as launching pads for

the U.N. Interim Force In Leba-

non (UNIFIL), said the bomb attack took place at 2:30 a.m.

(0030 GMT) near the village of

Qlaile, 10 kilometres sonth of the

Mr. Goksel said the hlast in-

flicted damage on the armoured

personnel carrier, which carried

five soldiers of UNIFIL's Fijian

He said investigation showed

that the attackers "came from

Olaile village. Obviously the UNIFIL vehicle was the target,

Qlaile is a village in the western

coastal sector of South Lebanon,

hut we don't know why."

port of Tyre.

battalion.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for

casualties were reported.

Shells land near exiles'

n (AP) _ A where both Hizbolish s

ment have influence.

The army confirmed only that a civilian had been killed and said it

was checking further. Soldiers imposed a curfew on Rafah, which is home to about 90.000 Palestinians, and launched searches, Arab reports said.

The attack occurred nearly 12 hours after soldiers imposed a closure order that blocked at least 35,000 Gazans from reaching jobs

The army said the Erez crossing from Gaza into Israel was shut to Palestinian traffic at 3:00 a.m. (0100 GMT). The measure was one-way and did not prevent Israelis from entering Gaza.

It was not known how long the Israeli closure measure would last, but the Haaretz daily said it was expected to be lifted in several days.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator to U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, condemned the closure as unfair since about half of Gaza's work force is employed in Israel. "The closure goes along with the usual Israeli attitude of im-

posing collective punishment which certainly is going to create all kinds of difficulties, mainly economic ones, for the people in the Gaza Strip," Mr. Abdul Shafi

. A statement from the Palestine

self-proclaimed "security zone"

in South Lebanon fired 11 mortar

accused Israel of trying to starve the Palestinians through the clo-

An army statement Monday said the Gaza Strip was being closed to examine entry permits and prevent violence between Arabs and Jews.

In deciding on the closure Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also is defence minister, dismissed calls from rightwingers for an indefinite, blanket closure or an Israeli boycott of the Middle East peace talks.

The peace talks have to take place because in them lies the medium and long-term solution," he said.

First of all, the purpose of this closure, which is for a few days, is to try to reexamine several areas regarding checks and procedures at the roadblocks," Mr. Rabin said Monday.

There is no intention to make this a long-term closure." The attack sparked a heated

debate on the future of the Gaza Strip. Israeli radio stations questioned public figures and took calls from the public all day on the question of Gaza. Members of Rabin's Labour

Party and other leftists said only a political settlement to the Israeli-

(Continued on page 5)

camp in South Lebanon ex-Soviet mainstream Shiite Amal move-Police said Israeli gunners or their militia allies inside Israel's

stores'

rounds, all falling only a kilometre away from the evictees' BONN (AP) - Iran has been camp just north of the zone. They said the bombardment, which renewed around noon (1000 GMT), targeted the supply

route that the evictees and sympathetic villagers have been using to replenish the exiled men with food and medical stocks. None of the men, expelled by Israel Dec. 17, was hurt in the

The Israeli army confirmed that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened fire in the area "when they spot-

ted suspicious movement. They opened fire and then stopped." Meanwhile the evictees' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, praised the killing of two Israelis in Tel Aviv Monday by a Palestinian armed with two knives.

(Continued on page 5)

Somalis inch towards talks; clashes in southern port city

KISMAYU (AP) — U.S. soldiers shot and killed one Somali man and wounded another in the clan war-plagued port of Kismayu, but the violence did not stop rivals from taking another tentative step twards peace Tuesday.

Fifteen groups turned in lists of their heavy weapons to U.S.-led forces Tnesday, officials said. The submission of the lists and the expected transfer of the weapons to allied control was viewed as indicating the factions' willingness to work for peace in a country devastated by war.

Allied soldiers trying to halt clan warfare have at times found themselves caught in the crossfire. On Monday night, an army foot patrol came under fire and shot back, killing one Somali, a U.S. military spokesman said.

While trying to retrieve the body, the patrol was fired on again and shot one Somali in the chest, the spokesman said. The condition of the wounded man was not known, and no U.S. soldiers were reported hurt.

Kismayu has been tense since supporters of Mohammad Said Hirsi, known as General Morgan, launched a surprise attack last week that sent rival warlord ColGen. Morgan's supporters say

claimed the lives of 350,000 people last year.

Somalia has forced Gen, Morgan, a son-in-law of ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, to confine his fighters to an area near the Kenyan border and had seized some weapons.

take his fighters and weapons at city by midnight Tueday or risk

Relief agencies in Mogadishu

(Continued on page 5)

his fighters fleeing to the outskirts of town.

they only want to regain homes taken when Col. Jess forced them to escape in fighting last year. An international coalition led by American troops arrived on Dec. 9 to end warfare in Somalia, were fighting and starvation

The allied military coalition in

It also had ordered Col. Jess to least 80 kilometres outside the

But supporters of the two rivals clashed Sunday and Monday in Kismayu, leaving five people

said Monday that their workers in Officials seek grass-roots support,

Tehran buying up nuclear

snapping up nnelear stores thrown into the black market by the hreak-up of the Soviet Union, a news magazine reported Tues-

Almost every time in the last year there was an attempt to sell radioactive material from the ex-Soviet Union, interested parties from Iran were present," the weekly Stern quoted an unnamed expert at the federal intelligence service as saying.

The news magazine released in advance a synopsis of the report appearing in Thursday's editions. Stern said there were more than 600 weapons dealers or agents in Germany, Switzerland and Austria working for Iran, most of them in Germany. It said there were 200 "front companies" worldwide helping the Iranian nuclear effort, again most in Germany, but that government officials thought the figures were probably higher. Syria and Libya were also

trying to up ex-Soviet stores of radioactive material, Stern said, but "Iran is far and away the craftiest."

The magazine also said North Korea was "a de facto nuclear power" and quoted a report from Russia's secret service, which claimed that last year 56 kilogrammes of plutonium were smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to North Korea.

It claimed that India and Pakistan were "on the verge of nuclear war" in early 1990 overr Kashmir. Stern quoted Ronald Lehmann, a U.S. armaments official, as saying, "Thank God, no-one knew how close we really were to that." Stern also claimed that con-

trary to public statements. Russia would continue nuclear weapons testing. It cited a secret decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to prepare to continue nuclear testing on an island in the Arctic Осеал.

Iran's defence minister meanwhile accused the United States of demonising Tehran in an effort to alarm regional countries and sell them weapons left over from (Continued on page 5)

Britain imposes strict control on



strip was sealed off Tuesday (AFP photo)

Hamas denies rejecting U.S. plan, will abide by majority decision

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas Tuesday denied rejecting a six-point U.S. proposal to resolve the expellee crisis and said if the majority of the Palestinian people wanted to go ahead with the peace process Hamas would respect their wishes and stop its attempts to break off Palestinian peace talks with

"We neither accept nor reject the six-point plan of (U.S. Secretary of State Warren) Christopher," Hamas representative in Bordan Mohammad Nazzal told the Jordan Times, "We are saying that the peace negotiations should not be linked with the U.N. Resolution 799."

Mr. Nazzal said three of the six points included in the deal proposed by Mr. Christopher were "irrelevant" to the immediate implementation of Resolution 799.

"Why should we approve of irrelevant statements? There is no need. Israel should announce

that it will no longer carry out expulsions or transfer policies. That is the single most important point along with the implementation of Resolution 799," Mr. Nazzal said. Mr. Nazzal confirmed that his

movement would continue to oppose the peace process regardless of whether Resolution 799 was implemented or not. He said that the only condition under which Hamas would stop actively opposing the peace process would be in the "framework of a democratic Palestinian political arena in which the majority (of the Palestinians) voted in favour of

Mr. Nazzal said, however, that Hamas was not contemplating continuing discussions with the PLO leadership over joining the Palestine National Council (PNC) any time in the near fu-

For the moment the issue of our joining the PNC has been shelved until further notice," said Mr. Nazzal, who was one of Hamas representatives to engage in a PLO-Hamas dialogue in

Tunis and Khartoum in Decem-Asked what conditions Hamas

now puts on its joining the PNC, he said that "democratisation of the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee is of primary concern to us." Mr. Nazzal said if the PLO was to democratise "we would join today,"

Any decisions made by a "free PNC would be binding to us, including participation in the peace process," he said. He said Hamas would partici-

pate in any elections in the occupied territories provided that they were not linked to the peace process." Hamas will not categorically rule out its participation if the elections were linked to the peace process but such "decisions have not been made yet," be added.

PLO officials close to Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that the PLO leadership was "in no hurry to include Hamas in the PNC at this stage." "Right now that would be a

(Continued on page 5)

gion say falls far short of implementing the resolution. The U.S. did not do enough to secure the return of the expellees and allowed Israel to get off the hook, said the observer. Accordingly, it is afraid of a reaction.

be said. American citizens interviewed

(Continued on page 5)

Saddam: Iraq wants better ties with U.S.

dam Hussein said in a television interview Monday he would be willing to improve relations with the United States if Washington shared the same feeling.

"Iraq is ready to establish a new relationship with the United States if it is ready to do the same," the Iraqi leader said. President Saddam was inter-

viewed by an American journalist in Baghdad. Italian state television, which showed the interview Monday, said it was the first time it has been broadcast.

Asked what he would say to President Bill Clinton if the U.S. president was in the same room, President Saddam replied: "I will tell him what I think when he is sitting here in front of me.' He also said he hoped Mr.

Clinton would succeed in winning a good reputation in the world.

U.N. inspectors pile pressure on Iraq The head of a new U.N. in-

spection team heading for Iraq said Tuesday he would increase pressure on Baghdad to name the foreign suppliers for its nuclear weapons programme. Dimitri Perricos, a Greek sci-

entist, leads a team of 24 nuclear experts to Baghdad Wednesday on an eight-day inspection. He said he would press for supplier details and check about 24 sites, including some new suspect locations, for nuclear-related

activity banned since Iraq lost the war over Kuwait in 1991. Identification of Iraq's suppliers of equipment for its nuclear, chemical, ballistic and biological weapons programmes is one of the most important remaining demands the United Nations has

on Baghdad. The Perricos said he would refuse Baghdad's demand for a complete list of questions about its supply network.

before lifting economic sanctions

After nearly two years of refus-

ROME (R) - Iraqi leader Sad- mg. information about its suppliers, Iraq has said in the past three months that it would positively consider requests for information.

But when pressed, it has said it would only answer a complete list, not piecemeal questions. Mr. Perricos told Reuters the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was refusing to accept the demand because it could reveal to Baghdad how

Iraq had no right to make conditions, Mr. Perricos said. Asked if he would present the Iraqis with a complete list of questions, he said: "No, because giving them a complete list implies they want to know what we know. They haven't proven their good faith hy providing answers to specifie questions we gave

much the U.N. already knows.

Mr. Perricos said he would also press for Iraq's unequivocal acceptance of U.N. Security Council resolutions 707 and 715 which prescribe long-term monitoring of weapons programmes, demand answers to U.N. questions and limit Iraqi activities in the future.

"They always try to dodge the issue," he said. He said the Iraqis talked about

long-term monitoring in the context of the Gulf war ceasefire document, Security Council Resolutin 687 but refuse to accept 707 and 715, which go into more detail.

Last Friday, Lieutenant-General Amer Rasheed, head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Commission, said Baghdad accepted long-term monitoring and had issued orders to comply with 687.

But the interview did not mention 715 or 707.

Mr. Perricos was scheduled to fly in on March 3 and return on March 11, an official at the Bahrain field office for the U.N.

Federal agents brace for showdown with Texas cult

WACO, Texas (AP) — Federal year-old daughter. agents sent in more firepower overnight as a bloody standoff with a religious cult entered a third day, but they said there was no rush to storm the compound. Six more children left at dawn Tuesday.

A convoy of 25 trucks, cars and vans carrying agents in riot gear moved in Monday evening as onlookers were ordered out. and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) sent its elite hostage rescue team to the scene. But authorities refused to say

how long the 400 law enforcement officers massed outside the fog-shrouded compound were prepared to let the standoff with cult leader David Koresh and an estimated 75 followers, including some British citizens, drag on.

"There's no rush on something like this. You have to take your time," Ted Royster, special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tohac-co and Firearms (BAIF), said Tuesday. "You want to save as many people as possible." Anthorities talked by tele-

phone periodically with cult members Monday, a day after a raid by about 100 BATF agents erupted in gun battles that killed four agents and two Koresh followers, one reportedly his two-

The talks continued with Mr. Koresh early Tuesday, Mr. Roys-

Koresh's physical condition. Mr. Koresh, the 33-year-old messianic leader of the Branch Davidian sect, told a radio station he had been gravely wounded Sunday. As of early Tuesday, Mr. Koresh — who says he is Jesus Christ — had not been publicly heard from since 2 a.m. Monday.

ter said. He did not know Mr.

Meanwhile, in London, the British Foreign Office said it had informed American authorities of the names of at least 14 British men, women and children who moved to the cult's headquarters in recent months following a call from Mr. Koresh. The office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom, said up to 50 Britons may be involved with the cult.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church said about 20 of its members, mostly from Nottingham and Manchester in northern England, became involved in the cult

in 1980 after a visit by Mr. Koresh, then using the name Vernon Howell. British television said Mr. Koresh's followers also made a recruiting drive last year.

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SINCE MARCH 1st, 1993



Officials target grass roots to bring Somalia back from ruin

MOGADISHU (AP) - The phone system was ripped out, water mains were dug up, electrical plants gutted and factories sold for scrap. The central hank was looted and hlasted full of holes. How does Somalia even begin to rebuild?

Forget it for now, development officials say. With famine at bay, they plan to ask donor nations this month to fund local health, education and farming projects that will cost bundreds of millions of dollars.

Major projects will have to wait until rival factions can agree on a government, they say. Somalia has been rubberless since dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was driven from power in January 1991 and the country descended into clan warfare.

There is an enormous temptation in the absence of all these things to react with kneejerk solutions," Larry de Boice, the U.N. Development Programme's (UNDP) deputy representative in Somalia, said Monday.

"We're looking at a series of smaller scale support activity,' he said in an interview.

A 56-page U.N. draft proposal calls for \$253 million in aid this year to fund U.N. relief and development projects in Somalia. The final version is to be presented to the March 11 donor's conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

While \$133 million is earmarked for food supplies and care for refugees, the rest is aimed at getting Somalia self sufficient again. Members of the U.S.-led coalition that ensured relief shipments since December are looking to scale hack their military involve-

"Once the emergency is over, you need projects to get

people back to work," said Cynthia Osterman, spokesman for care, one of several relief groups that would participate in the U.N. plan. Care, World Concern and

other groups would distribute food in exchange for work, the

Before the civil war, agriculture employed 02 per cent of working Somalis and was 65 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, she said.

The key to Somalia's recovery is livestock, which accounted for 80 per cent of the country's export earnings before the war, officials say. Without vaccination and health checks, Somalis are forced to sell their cattle,

camels and goats for less than market price to foreign traders who turn around and resell at a dramatic profit, "Before the system's not in

place, the Somalis are getting ripped off," Mr. De Boice The draft proposal calls for a

\$7.0 million programme by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for livestock programmes. In addition, the FAO would spend \$12.3 million for seed and farm tools. While food shipments have drastically reduced hunger. Somalis face widespread outbreaks of malaria, whooping cough and measles, officials say, and health care is in a

"Hospitals were looted and devastated," Mr. Osterman said. "Even before the civil war, medical care was available to only 27 per cent of the population.

The U.N. draft said that according to a September 1992 study, more than half of Somalia's estimated 354 physicians had left the country of 6.5

negotiators to end feuding

KABUL (AP) — The military cards and other documents of chief of the embattled government asked Monday that a combeside Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbermittee of Islamic scholars, lawyers and intellectuals he

Associated Press, Ahmad Shah Masood also said be was preparing a new offensive to crush Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the other chieftains who have battered Kabul with shells and mis-

"Not one of them bas taken on responsibility for the problems of in Islamabad, the Pakistani capit-Afghanistan. When they face al, for peace talks. Few believe problems, they jump in the jeeps and flee to Pakistan, but not one has shown any kind of compassion toward this country," he

Mr. Masood, defence minister in the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, spoke during a four-hour interview at his home, a former guest bouse of

million people.
The U.S.-led coalition and

relief groups have reopened

some hospitals, and the U.N.

proposes spending \$23 million

on health and nutrition, includ-

ing creating 500 posts for local

dangerously contaminated. Barder, 350 kilometres west of

Mogadishu, one of the cities

worst hit by famine, is getting

food shipments. But a study in

January showed only 14 per cent of the people there were getting potable water, Mr.

Like hospitals, most water

systems, pumps and generators

in larger towns were destroyed

or looted. Up to 90 per cent of

wells are out of service, many

destroyed to ensure that

opposing military forces could not find water, the U.N. draft

The United Nations wants to

spend \$12.7 million to rehabili-

tate damaged wells, chlorinate

water supplies and deliver

drinkable water. Care plans to rehabilitate a canal for four

The U.N. plan would also spend \$20 million on employment and \$7.6 million on re-

Individual generators pro-

vide electricity to homes, while

the military and relief groups

have relied on radios and satel-

lite phones for communication.

a telephone network, the U.S.

army has drawn up a \$20 mil-

fion plan for cellular phones in

Mogadishu with limited service

in ontlying areas, said Marine

Colonel Kevin Keonedy, the

coalition's liaison for buma-

The plan was submitted to

the United Nations for consid-

nitarian efforts.

eration, he said.

With no immediate plans for

Water supplies remain

health care workers.

Osterman said.

the communist government.
Mr. Masood also attacked Mr. Hekmatyar's foreign backers. He meotioned no countries by name, but seemed to be talking about Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, whose fundamentalists have sent Mr. Hekmatyar hundreds of milbons of dollars.

"We have documents that show that these countries have been giving military and financial

paign of repression against Shifte

rebels in the southern marshes.

"There are press reports that talk about the killings of hun-dreds of Shiites by Saddam Hus-

sein's armed forces. Some of

them talk of a massacre," State

Department spokesman Richard

"We're looking into those re-ports, as we look into all such

reports, but at this point I'd say

I'm not able to confirm any of the

resolutions that ended the Gulf

"There have been no major

Iraci military offensives recently,

but the small scale military ac-

tions continue against the civilian

Also, Iraq continues to impede the efforts of the international

community to provide humanita-

rian relief to all the Iraqi people,

Mr. Boucher described "small-

scale" military actions as "skir-

mishes, forays by small groups of

Iraci soldiers, certain amount of

Iraq said Sunday it would wel-

come visits by foreign reporters

to its sonthern marshes. The offer

came in response to a report in

London's Observer newspaper

saying Iraqi forces shelled villages

every night and siphoned off wa-

ter in an attempt to turn their

In Geneva, a U.N. investiga-

In a report to the U.N. Human

Rights Commission, Max Van

Der Stoel also cited reports that

refuge into a desert.

camps" in recent months.

shelling and things like that."

population," he said.

be added.

Boucher told reporters.

U.S. probing reports

of new Iraqi 'repression'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Detainees from southern Irac The United States said Monday it reportedly were transported in

was investigating news reports groups of up to 200 to death that Iraq had launched a cam-

specifics at this time," Mr. Stoel declined to elaborate on his

He said the pattern of "repres- tions" allegedly happened in re-

sion" was well documented and cent months. He did not offer a

Islami rebels.

Pakistani and Saudi : negotiators formed to belp end the bloody have been trying to hroker an end feuding among Afghan factions. to the bloodshed that has killed In an interview with the or wounded tens of thousands of people and destroyed much of the

> Fighting began almost im-mediately in April, after a 14-year war ended with the ouster of the communists and victory for the Islamic factions.

Mr. Rabbani arrived Monday any truce will last, though, because of the intensive hatred between Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr.

"He is a man looking only for power and he will use any method to get it," Mr. Masood said. "We want a political settlement worked ont through negotia-tions," be said. "But if we have to

fight, it will be a quick strike. We are preparing for the second round of fighting and we will make it a very short war."

Discontent has been growing in Kabul over Mr. Masood's reluctance to wipe out the long-range missiles and rocket launchers used by Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels.

On Sunday, after a two-week full, rockets and mortars crashed into a market, a mosque and a assistance to Hekmatyar," said huge apartment complex, killing Mr. Masood, pulling out identity at least 31 people, half of them

said. Another account spoke of

hundreds of marsh residents

being held in such camps, it said.

Farmers in nearby Kurdish-controlled areas said they saw

busloads of people with southern

Iraqi features arrive and heard

gunshots on subsequent evenings,

The former Dutch foreign

In an interview, Mr. Van der

sources but said the "mass execu-

Mr. Van der Stoel's annual

report to the commission, the top

U.N. human rights watchdog now

meeting in Geneva, also deman-

ded that Iraq end its economic

blockade of Kurdish areas in the

north and southern Shute re-

Iraqi Kurds may not survive

the next winter because they de-

pend on the government to let

through international bumanita-

rian aid and have cut down many

fruit trees for firewood this win-

Torture by Iraqi forces, includ-

ing beatings, burnings and elec-tric shocks, remained widespread

in the past year, it said, citing "an

all-pervasive order of repression" in which "innumerable viola-

tions" of human rights occur.

to stop "interference in the reli-gious activities" of its Shiltes.

over Iraq because of U.N. sanc-

Mr. Van der Stoel urged 1raq

He said hardship is rising all

He nrged Iraq to accept a U.N.

plan for selling oil under interna-

tional supervision to pay for

ter, the report said.

minister called the allegations

Mr. Van der Stoel said.

'extremely disturbing."-

After the attack, 200 to 300 demonstrators marched toward the presidential palace, shouting "Death to Rabbani, death to Masood.

Mr. Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami, and other dissident factions have showered the city with rockets and mortar shells for months.

In an interview with the AP last week at his mountain headquar-ters south of Kabul, Mr. Hekmatyar gave no indication the shelling would stop. "We want peace, but the other

side is not serious," he said. "In Kabul, you hear shelling. Here there is peace and quiet."

A nationwide assembly voted

in December to make Mr. Rabbani president for two more years. But most of the major Muslim leaders accused Mr. Rab-bani of paying off the delegates with bribes.

"We are ready to accept an international commission religious scholars, lawyers, intellec-tuals from the Islamic world to investigate these charges and we will accept their decision." Mr. Masood said in the interview with

"If the commission finds any abuses, I will resign," he said. Mr. Masood, leader of the best organised rebel force during the 14-year war, now commands a patchwork Islamic army that is defending Mr. Rabbam

Sudan says

Egypt seeks

military end

to Halaib row

KHARTOUM (AP) - Sudan's

military ruler has accused Egypt of seeking a military solution to a

border dispute and warned that

the problem could wreck bilateral

Lieutenant-General Omar

Hassan Al Bashir said Egypt was

not serious about reaching a

negotiated settlement on the

Halaib area and "has decided to solve the Halaib conflict with

He spoke in an interview with

the Iraqi News Agency that was aired on state television Monday

Gen. Bashir repeated charges

that Egypt has massed troops at

the border and set up new check

relations between the two coun-

Egypt in 1902 gave Sndan

administrative powers in Halaib

because the majority of its inhahi-

tants were Sudanese tribesmen.

Cairo says that Khartoum has

confused local administration

The dispute, dormant since the

late 1950s, flared up at the end of

1991 when Sudan granted a Cana-

dian oil firm a concession for

exploration offshore from

Halaih. Egypt protested and the

A joint committee formed to

negotiate a settlement held an

inconclusive session last month in

Khartoum. The official Sudan

News Agency (SUNA) quoted a

source close to the talks as saying

that the two parties discussed

Egypt's "transgressions" in Halaib.

tries," Gen. Bashir said.

north of that line.

with sovereignty.

deal was scrapped.

Sudan militarily."

Afghan leader seeks Islamic No date set yet for Mideast peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — secretary had on substantive state Department spokesman issues and try to make sure that issues and try to make sure that his next round can be as this next round can be as this next round of Arab-Israeli peace spokesman said.

negotiations.
On February 25, Secretary of
State Warren Christopher and
Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev issued a statement in Geneva saying they would invite the parties to a new round of talks during the month of April.

Noting there has been speculation based on religious holidays and calendars, Mr. Boucher told reporters that "until we've actually decided ourselves ... I would steer you away from all speculation on any particular date."

While be was not aware of any

specific conversations the secretopher met with Syrian Foreign engagement at all levels," he minister Farouk Al Sharaa in said. Brussels Feb. 25, Mr. Boucher pointed out: "We have been in talks through our embassies.

approach the next round, we'll actively engaged with the par-continue the discussions that the ties," he said.

Ecc

Mr. Christopher had extensive discussions during his February
18-24 trip to the Middle East. "He found that the parties were very much committed to the peace process, that they were interested in resuming negotiations as soon as possible." Mr. Boucher said. "Based on their boucher said. statements, we think that they'll be able to participate when we do schedule the next round," he

The spokesman was asked to explain the 'full partnership' role that Mr. Christopher ary may have had with Middle pledged the U.S. would play when the talks resume. "It means

The secretary was "actively involved" in the process, personaltouch with all the parties to the ly, during his trip, and he indicated that he and the United We've had continuing discussions States intend to continue that involvement," Mr. Boucher ex-"And I think it's important to plained. "But it also means that note in this context that as we at other levels, too, we'll be

Amnesty reports torture continuing in Algeria jails LONDON (AP) - Amnesty In- voting on Dec. 26, 1991, wanted

ternational said Tuesday that tor- to replace Algeria's secular, multure of prisoners by Algerian tiparty system with an Islamic security forces, which virtually state. ceased after 1989, has become widespread again following dec-porters of the front broke ou laration of a state of emergency around mosques it controlled in

and spoken to victims their families and doctors," the indepen-

the practice of torture in Algeria finitely. - which had been virtually eradiof 1992," it said.

following the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid three days have killed about 300 people in

tion Front (FIS).

points. He also said the Egyptian government has began exploring for minerals and water in Halaih and placed new border markers. "Those measures would not only harm, but would blow up

Halaih is a triangular area overlooking the Red Sea which both countries claim. Egypt says in 1899 agreement with Britain, then controlling Sudan, set the Egyptian-Sudanese border along the 22nd Parallel. Halaib lies

licenses would be granted for any energy equipment, with two ex- concern," Mr. Hurd wrote.

aircraft and air traffic control systems, and radioactive material for medical equipment. Export licenses would be re-

reason to suspect that it would go to a military end-user or be used for military purposes," Mr. Hurd aid in a written reply to the

Violent demonstrations by sup-

the capital Algiers and other The organisation has received towns following the assumption dozens of testimonies of torture of presidential powers by the The committee decreed a state

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dent, London-hased human of emergency on Feb. 9, 1992; rights group said in a report. and on Feb. 7 this year renewed Their testimonies show that the state of emergency inde-The Amnesty International re-

cated after 1988 - resumed after port said that since February February 1992, and dramatically 1992, over 9,000 suspected Islaincreased during the last quarter mie activists had been sent to desert internment camps without Algeria's five-member High charge or trial. It said that more Council of State took over prestand 1,000 continue to be held in idential powers on Jan. 14, 1992 the camps.

the last 12 months, many in The second round of general armed clashes,

election voting which had been "However, a significant num-scheduled for Jan. 16 was mean-ber appear to have been innocent while cancelled, blocking the bystanders, deliberately killed probable overall election victory while allegedly crossing police

the opposition Islamic Salva- barriers, breaking the curfew or in other circumstances where The front, which had emerged they posed no threat of vio-as winner of the first round of lence," the report said.

Britain tightening controls on arms, technology to Iran

and technology to Iran, which has "We shall support efforts been accused of developing a among supplier countries, in par-

House of Commons.

banned items but introduces more stringent guidelines for approving license applications,"

23: 45 Damaseus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30

13:00 13:10

LONDON (AP) — Britain announced Monday it is tightening controls on exports of arms guidelines, would remain valid.

"We shall support efforts announced with the state of the

huge arsenal.

Foreign Secretary Dongias industrial powers) and our Euro-Hurd told parliament no export pean partners, to promote a harmonised approach to effective items on international lists of controls on the export of dual use proscribed military or atomic goods to countries of particular The move followed completion

The exceptions were goods of a government review of export essential for the safety of civil licensing criteria for Iran. Export restrictions were im-

posed at the start of the Iran-Iraq In comments broadcast Mon-

fused for those exceptions day, Defence Minister Jonathan "where there was knowledge or Aitkin told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Television at an Abu Dhabi arms fair, "We operate what is probably the toughest licensing system in the louse of Commons.

World ... as far as Iran is concerned, there is virtually a total later stressed: This announce embargo on all equipment which ment doesn't extend the list of could be regarded as lethal or which comes into any of the key categories, which are now very well defined."

11:30

NOTIFICATION



announce the appointment of M/S: International Shipping & transport Co. (ISTCO).

as their new Shipping agent in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as of 1st. March, 1993.

For More informations and customers service please contact our new Agent (ISTCO) at the following numbers:

Amman

Tel.:682797/698818/698810 Tel.:319201/319202/319203 Tix: 21838 Eagle Jo.

Fax:698810

<u>Aqaba</u>

Tix: 62303 ISTCO JO.

Fax: 319203

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

tior said Iraq had apparently ex-ecuted bundreds of people from said the deteriorating "humanita-

its southern marshes in "death rian situation" was the govern-

Iraqi "agents" provoked internal bumanitarian supplies and re-

dissent among the marsh resinewed an appeal for Iraq to open dents "that reportedly led to up to foreign burnan rights moni-2,000 deaths in the fall of 1992."

Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO ... 52 Sur La Une News in French Varieties News in Arabic After us the Deluge News in English An American Love

JORDAN TELEVISION

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfich, Tel. 810740 ties of God Church, Tel SL Jacobi Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Amunciation 637440. OS/440). De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terresporte Church Tel: 622366

of the Annunciation Tcl. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armeniae 771331. Orthodox Church Tcl. nie Church Tel. 771751. Ammen International Church Tcl. 685326.

WEATHER

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Amman 46 per cent. Aqaba 49

The Church of Jenus Christ of Latter-Day Saists Tel. 823824, 654932. Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

Dr. Mahmoud Al Hardi 778336 623672 636730 644945 637660 623672 847632

Dr. Mahmond Al Abbadi

AMMAN:

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

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775121 Highway Police 896390 Public Security Department Heard Complaints Price Complaints Price Complaints Water and Sewerage 661176 897467 787111 elephone Information . 010230 etral American Telephone Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101

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Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

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AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Paris, Damasca (OS)
Vicana, Lamaca (OS)
Beirut (ME) This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information department at the Oveen Alia International DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where is should always be verified. (Terminai 1)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Dubai. Abu Dhabi (RJ

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Jordan Times

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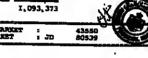
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Financial Markets

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Italian Lira

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Brazil economy chief quits | Clinton plan will slow

BRASILIA (R) - President Ita- 1 Mr. Haddad, 53, told reporters minister Monday as a replacement for Paulo Haddad, who resigned in a dispute over boards.

Central bank president Gustavo Loyola and the bank's fivemember board also announced their resignations in what looked bke a setback to the fight against malaise in the world's ninthlargest economy.

The surprise resignations, made Sünday but not announced until Monday, gutted President Itamar Franco's economic team at a time when the bage economy is ailing from deep recession and suffering 1,100 per cent inflation. Mr. Franco replaced Mr. Had-

dad with Eliseu Resende, the president of the state power utility Eletrobras. He rejected shock plans to ease inflation of 27 per cent a month and called for hard work and austerity. .

Mr. Resende is the fifth economy minister since 1990 and the president in October.

mar Franco named a veteran he was quitting because of conadministrator Brazil's economy flicts with the president over appointments of Franco political supporters instead of technical experts to the boards of the cenappointments to state bank trai bank and the state-run Bank of Brazil.

"The only... reason I had was the deep disagreements I had with the composition of the board of the central bank and the board of the Bank of Brazil," Mr. Haddad said

He said 75 per cent of his and Mr. Loyola's plans to halt inflation and rebuild the economy depended on the expertise of the

Mr. Franco and his aides have been making appointments to thousands of government posts, using them as bargaining chips with congressional and state leaders to gain support for the president's legislative package. Mr. Franco belongs to no party.

Brazilian newspapers had reported a growing rift between Mr. Franco and bis economy minister and wondered bow long third since Mr. Franco became. Mr. Haddad would tolerate the president's public administrations

of his handling of the economy.

Mr. Haddad had said an economic and anti-inlation plan would be in place by the end of April or early May, but Mr. Franco had pressed him for quicker implementation.

Mr. Haddad had said he was working on "preconditions" to stabilise the economy, including refinancing domestic and foreign debts totalling \$230 billion, and it would take 60 to 90 days for those preconditions to be met.

Mr. Franco Saturday said he had ordered Mr. Haddad to bring his plans forward because "the country can't put up with the present inflation level for another hree or four months."

Mr. Franco last week denied newspaper reports detailing Mr. Haddad's economic plans and bad publicly rejected Mr. Haddad's announcement of a new currency to replace the cruzeiro.

Shares on the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange dropped 5.5 per cent in beavy trading after Mr. Haddad's resignation. Some business leaders praised Mr. Resende for his ambitious plan unveiled last month to restructure Brazil's troubled energy sector.

mie Advisors, endorsed the proposal but told the House of Representatives Budget Committee that deficit reduction would result in slower growth and job loss over the coming years. "A loss of jobs as indicated runs counter to one of the major goals of the Clinton administra-

mony. The question is whether Americans will bave the patience... to stay the course and policymakers in Washington the courage to stick with deficit re-

tion." Mr. Sinai said in testi-

nomic plan would not reduce the

federal deficit as much as the

White House predicted and was

likely to slow economic growth.

for that Boston Company Econo-

Allen Sinai, chief economists

duction," he said. The budget panel will vote next week on the four-year \$325 billion deficit reduction plan, which includes new taxes, spending cuts and 'new federal programmes.

Mr. Clinton has also proposed an immediate \$16 billion economic stimulas bill.

Republican lawmakers have been critical of the overall pack- he's mentioned. Obviously, that

WASHINGTON (R) — Leading tax increases and not enough on economists said Monday Presispending cuts. dent Bill Clinton's sweeping eco-

recovery—economists

Mr. Sinai said Mr. Clinton's plan would cut the deficit \$250-\$275 billion over four years, not the \$325 billion projected.

Lawrence Chimerine of data Resources/McGraw Hill gave the plan a qualified endorsement, but called on Congress to attack spending in mandatory programmes like pensions and health

The administration programme is likely to bold down economic growth during the next three of four years by between 0.2 and 0.4 per cent per year. This would be true of any programme that reduced the deficit," Mr. Chimerine said.

Mr. Clinton said Monday he favoured higher cigarette laxes and a top aide said smokers could be paying \$1.50 to \$2 more for a pack of cigarettes.

Budget Director Leon Panetta said the tax could be part of the Clinton administration's effort to meet the nation's soaring health care costs.

Asked about reports that Clinton favoured slapping a \$2 tax on a pack of 20 cigarettes, Mr. Panetta said: "Well, that's what age, saving it relies too much on creates a lot of nervousness

among the tobacco lobbies "A tax somewhere in the vicin ity of a buck 50 (\$1.50) to two bucks makes some sense if vou're concerned about trying to inhibit a behaviour that feeds into health care probelms," Mr. Panetta told Cable News Network.

Mr. Clinton said in an interview with the cable music network MTV that he believed the tax should be raised.

.. I think it would be a good thing if it reduced smoking, because an enormous percentage of our health care costs, a huge percentage, grow directly out of smoking, not only direct probtems for people who are smokers, but indirect problems that are caused by it. And smoking ought to bear more of the cost of the health care problems that it causes," Mr. Clinton said.

A pack of eigarettes costs about \$2, and the threat of "sin taxes" has rattled the powerful tobacco lobby.

But opinion polls show most Americans — increasingly opposed to smoking due to heightened awareness of the health risks - favour the cigarette tax as a way to cut the deficit and put a lid on spiralling health care costs.

Japan companies begin drastic restructuring TOKYO (R) - Corporate Japan some unwelcome early retire-

is biting the bullet, embarking on some of the drastic restructuring it needs to restore profit growth and boost competitiveness in face of the nations' worst economic slump in decades.

But ironically, these corporate moves could delay recovery from the very slowdown that is forcing the restructuring, some economists said.

"It took three years for Japanese management to realise that the domestic slowdown is very severe and that actual production cuts, plant closures and redundancies of full-time workers are warranted," Jesper Koll, an economist at S.G. Warburg, has

Japan's number-two carmaker, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd, grabbed headlines with its announcement Tuesday it would shed 5;000 employees - almost one-tenth of its 3,000-strong workforce - by March 1996 in an effort to get back in the black.

The staff reductions, it said, would come through natural attriments were in store for older workers.

Nissan also said it was halting production at its car assembly plant in Zama west of Tokyo around spring 1995, marking the first car plant closure in recent

Nissan said when it announced the plan that it now expects declining domestic and overseas sales to widen its operating losses — the best measure of its core business bealth — to 39 billion yen (\$333 million) from an earlier estimate of 17 billion yen (\$145 million), against a profit of 33.78 billion (\$289 million) in 1991/92.

Domestic telecom giant Nip-pon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) also said it was stepping up its ongoing plan to shrink its staff, although it declined to confirm reports by-Japanese media that it would slice another 30,000 people from its 230,000-strong payroll by the year ending March 1997.

The two giants may be extreme cases, but they are hardly alone in

reducing personnel expenses and to cope with excess capacity. There isn't a manufacturer in

turing plan up its sleeve," Mr. Koll said. Some sectors are choosing mergers as the preferred cure.

Japan who doesn't have a restruc-

Late last month leading paper makers Oji Paper Co. Ltd. and Kanzaki Paper Manufacturing Co. Ltd. said they would merge. It was the second planned merger in less than a year in an industry confronting its worst recession since World War II.

Banks and brokerages bave also announced some plans to slim down, but economists say the ailing financial sector requires bolder and more painful measures to regain its health.

Driving the restructuring is not only the current economic slamp but the prospects growth will never regain the beady levels of recent decades. "The biggest problem confronting corporate Japan now is bow to get profits out of slower growth," said Johsen Takahashi, senior fellow tion and layoffs, but analysts said their need to cut fixed costs by at Mitsubishi Research Institute.

Gulf oil countries alarmed by Clinton energy tax plan taxes in general.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's plan for an energy tax that discriminates against oil is alarming Gulf countries, which fear it will damage sales of their Black gold.

The tax also is being blasted by American oil companies, which claim it will reduce national income and cause bundreds of thousands of job losses. It would also hit their own profits. The proposal comes on the

heels of European proposals to levy a tax on carbon-based energy sources, including imported oil, domestically produced coal and other bydrocarbons. "The final consumer in the

made to suffer from the petrophobia of policy makers," Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told a conference in Houston last month. He said oil is "cheap, clean and

safe. So wby penalise this precious gift of God at the expense of the welfare of the people of the

Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, Sandi Arabia's largest, said: "If the industrialised countries decide to impose taxes that would effectively increase prices and discourage consumption, this may cause Gulf producers to reconsider their pricing strategy." In Kuwait, Commerce Minister Abdulla Al Hajiri told the

will bave a scrious effect on Kuwait." The emirate, devastated by Iraq's August 1990 invasion, is worried that the tax will eat into

Associated Press that the tax

revenues it needs for reconstruc-Other Gulf countries, such as

the United Arab Emirates, also

are concerned about the proposed tax. The Clinton proposal, which

would push up American gasoline prices by at least eight cents a gallon, is aimed at encouraging conservation and cutting oil imports by 350,000 barrels a day.

The price of a galton of gasoline in the United States currently averages \$1.09 (or 29 cents a The Energy Department esti-mated the Clinton tax would cut

the trade deficit by \$18 billion by the end of the decade while raising \$71.4 billion in government revenue over a five-year period. Mr. Clinton told Congress Feb. industrialised countries is being 17 that the tax, which would go

into effect in July 1994 and be phased in over three years, "combats pollution, promotes energy efficiency" and "promotes the independence economically of thsi country as well as helping to reduce the debt." Gnlf nations are concerned

that introducing the U.S. tax also will speed up application of the proposed European carbon tax.

European countries bave said they will not apply the tax unless similar measures are introduced by the United States and Japan. Now, with the Clinton proposals pending, only Japan needs to chime in.

Gasoline prices are at least twice American levels in most European countries and even higher than that in some.

There has been no official comment from Saudi Arabia on Mr. Clinton's proposal: Oil Minister Nazer's comments were made before the tax was formally proposed, and he was criticising such

tax as a naked attempt to grab easy revenues at the expense of economic growth both in the industrial countries and in oil producing nations. Under Mr. Clinton's proposal. crude oil would be taxed at twice

But in general, Gulf nations

and U.S. oil companies see the

the rate applied to other energy sources such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear and hydroelectric Charles Dibona, president of the U.S. oii industry's American

Petroleum Institute, bas said the

Clinton proposal would reduce the country's gross domestic product by some \$178 billion and cost Americans some 600,000 "This proposal really amounts to a thinly disguised gasoline tax,

one that would seriously harm economic recovery and be a jobkiller on a massive scale." Mr. Dibona said. For Guif nations, it is frustrat-

ing to see the price of their mais source of revenue; oil, slipping in world markets while customers try to earn money off the same oil "It's the treasuries of the indus-

trialised countries that will reap the premiums, not the OPEC conntries," said Abdul Aziz Dukhail, head of the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment in Riyadh. The Saudi oil ministry esti-

mated that in 1991 oil producers in developing countries earned \$70 billion on exports to the European Community (EC) countries while EC countries collected \$222 million in taxes.

S. Africa will seek new debt rescheduling

LONDON (R) - South Africa worldwide but was a serious reasonable period of time." agreement with its commercial bank creditors before the current pact expires at the end of 1993, the governor of the South African Reserve Bank has said.

The current arrangement covers \$5.5 billion of South Africa's total external debt of some \$18 billion, the rest is not subject to any restrictions as to payment. "Before the end of this year,

we will have to come to a new arrangement with the foreign creditors on what's going to happen to that debt," Chris Stals told Renters in an interview.

Mr. Stals said that theoretically the \$5.5 billion would immediately become payable unless a new agreement was reached. He said the debt was small in terms of developing country indebtedness

will seek a new rescheduling problem for Sonth Africa whose total foreign reserves amount to \$13.5 billion.

"The major problem is that we have a country that is undergoing very major political changes. It's a matter of time before a new kind of government takes over

responsibility," said Mr. Stals.
This made it very difficult to enter into a new agreement with the country's 230 commercial creditors at this point. "Ideally we would like to have

not only a longer-term arrange-ment but a final arrangement," Mr. Stals said. "South Africa has made substantial repayments on its foreign debt over the last eight or nine years and we will want to continue and repay that total amount but, obviously, it will have to be spread out over a

One banker, who was involved in the negotiation of the current rescheduling pact, said South Africa would have little difficulty in selling such a deal to the

creditors. South Africa's debt has been subject to three rescheduling arrangements since the international banks imposed a freeze on new credits to South Africa in

Mr. Stals said that under the current rescheduling, South Africa would pay banks three instalments this year. Taken together with its other commitments, the country will pay some \$1.5 billion this year.

Mr. Stals said relations between Sonth Africa and the multilateral financial institutions were gradually being normalised.

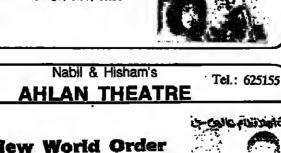
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The tender contains an option for the supply and installation of a third gas turbine unit. Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Announcement of Tender Availability

for

Supply and Installation

of

Two (2) Gas Turbines

Tender No. 99/92

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the availability of tender document, No. 99/92 for purchase as of March, 2nd

The tender consists of supply, erection, testing, commissioning

and guaranteeing of two (2) gas turbine power generation units

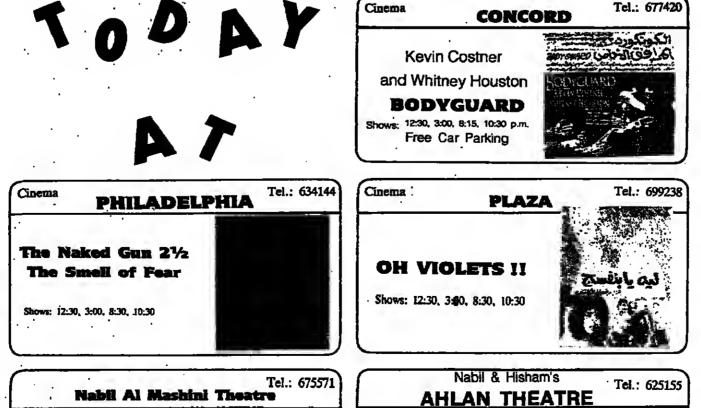
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Tender documents are available at the addressing menibelow for a non-refundable fee of JD 1,000 payable to JEA for each set (two copies of the tender documents). Jordan Electricity Authority

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U.S. makes 2nd drop; Muslims killed trying to get parcels

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Air force cargo planes sent more than 21,000 meals and half a tonne nf medical supplies burtling down into eastern Bosnia Tuesday in a second U.S. airdrop intended for

cutoff Muslims in the area.

Again, it was not clear if the supplies reached their intended recipients.

Many bundles dropped Sunday night's first mission were said to have missed the target, landing mostly in territory controlled by

And one report Tuesday said some Muslims were killed by sniper fire trying to collect sup-plies dropped by the Americans Monday. The unconfirmed report, passed on by a U.N. spokesman in Geneva, came from ham radio operators.

In all, six planeloads of food and medicine have been parachuted into eastern Bosnia in the operation, which is being run out of Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany and was authorised by President Bill Clinton last week.

The most direct U.S. intervention so far in the Bosnian war, the airdrops aim to bring relief to embattled Muslims at minimum risk to American troops.

The C-130s dropping the sup plies fly above 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) to reduce the risk of drawing anti-aircraft fire and, as another precautionary measure, have flown their missions at

Crew members said cloud cover helped hide them from view early Tuesday as three C-130s dropped nearly 19 tonnes of food and 1,000 pounds (450 kilogrammes) of medical supplies around

NEW YORK (AP) — A newly

discovered videotape of cars com-ing and going at the World Trade

Centre parking garage could yield clues to who planted the bomb

"It's heing reviewed and

copied, James Fox, head of the FBI's New York office, said

Investigators said theories for

the bombing range from a tehror-

ist attack to revenge by a disgrun-

tled employee, and they're still unsure what kind of explosive

killed at least five people and

But investigators got a hreak Monday when they found a secur-

ity videotane of vehicles entering

and exiting one of three entrances

to the underground garage before

Mr. Fox did not explain why

Diana arrives in Nepai

miured more than 1.000.

that rocked the twin towers.

Monday. "We'll know soon."

As on Sunday night, no hostile

fire was reported. The last overland food convoy to reach Zepa, a town of 29,000 people, got there on Feb. 21 and it was designated a "high priority" location by the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees.
Agency spokesman Ron Redmond said Tuesday that ham operators in the area were reporting that some Muslims were kil-led early Monday trying to pick up food dropped between the eastern regions of Cerska and

The first three planeloads of food and medicine were dropped in that area overnight Monday, intended for the estimated 20,000 Muslims in Cerska, where aid bad been cut off since the war broke

out nearly a year ago.

Mr. Redmond said there was no way to verify the radio operators' reports. Bosnia's Muslimled government in Sarajevo said Monday that the drop appeared an almost total failure.

Up to 10,000 refugees from the fighting in the Cerska area were reported cowering on the slopes of icy Mount Udre Monday as Serb tanks stormed into the region. Hundreds died in fighting in that area Sunday, Bosnian radio

Mr. Redmond said Tuesday that the U.N. had received an urgent request from anthorities in Cerska for an emergency medical

evacuation of 1,500 people. He said the United States was working with the Red Cross to try to send in a fleet of trucks to evacuate the wounded and seriously ill. No U.N. convoy has

only Monday, after days of au-thorities saying the garage had no

But he said it could be impor-

tant because experts believe the

bomb was so large it would "test

the springs of any car or any

the tape. Investigators have peg-

ged the bomh at up to 1500.

pounds (600 kgs), depending on what type of explosive was used.

The Port Authority of New

York and New Jersey said police

were also able to collect parking

studs from the garage with the

plates of each car written nn

them, and Mr. Fox said the studs

have yielded leads. The port au-

thority operates the Trade

described a pattern of suspicious

Also, Mr. Fox said, witnesses

making it conspicuous on

security camera.

Centre.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) - Princess Diana received a royal

welcome Tuesday in this rugged Himalayan kingdom where a decade ago her estranged husband confirmed rumours he would

marry ber. Crown Prince Dipendra and Prime Minister Girija

Prasad Koirala greeted the Princess of Wales at Tribhuvan

Airport. On Thursday, Princess Diana will dine with King

Birendra and Queen Aishwarya at the royal palace, contradicting

British news reports that she would be snubbed by Nepal's royalty

because of her alleged marital indiscretions. Princess Diana was

on a private four day visit to inspect British funded agriculture

and irrigation projects. It was in Nepal 11 years ago that Prince

Charles said be would marry then-Lady Diana Spencer. The

stepped from a commercial Reval Nepal Airlines flight from New Delhi. Eton-educated Dipendra shook hands with Princess Diana as she

PARIS (R) - President Francois Mitterrand of France will travel

to Moscow on March 16 for a day-long visit and talks with Russian

President Boris Yeltsin, the president's office annunced Tres-

day. The visit will follow Mr. Mitterrand's March 9 trip to Washington for a get-acquainted session with President Bill

Clinton. In each case, the situation in the furmer Yugoslavia is

expected to rank high on the agenda. French Foreign Minister

Roland Dumas was in Moscow Tuesday in prepare for Mr. Mixterrand's trip. Mr. Dumas said Monday he also would express

to Mr. Yeltsin France's wish to see Russia participate in an eventual multinational force that would be established if a peace

plan for Bosnia under discussinn is approved by all parties plus

the United Nations. Regional conflicts in the former Soviet Union

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Inmates at a crowded jail in northern Venezuela attacked dozens of convicts sent from

another prison. Authorities said at least 11 inmates were stabbed

to death. Police and National Guard units arrived at Tocoron Jail

to quell the riot, which started Monday morning. The jail is on the

outskirts of Maracay, about 50 kilometres west of Caracas, the

capital. The violence began as dozens of prisoners arrived from

Catia Jail in Caracas, which is scheduled to close by year's end.

Other prison wardens have refused to accept the inmates until

Philippine military to undergo AIDS tests

MANILA (R) — The Philippines' 160,000-strong armed forces

are to be tested for AIDS after a Marine chosen to serve with U.N. forces in Cambodia was found to be HIV positive. "The

chief of staff ordered everybody to be tested to be sure," armed

forces spokesman Colonel Benjamin Enrile told reporters in

Manila Tuesday. Testing for the HIV virus which causes AIDS would begin immediately and would be carried out by the main military hospital in Manila, he added. Armed Forces Chief of

Staff General Lisandro Abadia said AIDS tests would become

part of the annual medical examination of all military ufficers and

enlisted men. The Marine was immediately withdrawn from a

68-man Philippine Navy contingent to be sent to help police a

U.N.-brokered ceasefire agreement in Cambodia.

also were to be discussed by Mr. Dumas.

their facilities are expanded and renovated.

11 killed in Venezuela prison riot

Mitterrand to visit Moscow on March 16

Videotape may yield clues to New York blast

the existence of the tape emerged movements of vehicles near the

reached Cerska since the war not intended."

began.
The latest Serb advances in eastern Bosnia come as Muslim, Serb and Croat officials gathered in New York for another round of peace talks at U.N. headquarters. The Serb offensive, launched about two weeks ago after Muslims recaptured some eastern Bosnian territory, might be an

attempt to strengthen the Serbs'

hand in the talks. On Monday, Defence Secretary Les Aspin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell issued a statement calling the previous night's airdrop "suc-

We can confirm that many of the bundles landed in clear areas within the identified drop zone, which is in the area of Cerska,"

But a senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said only about nne third of the bundles appeared to have hit the mark.

As night fell in Bosnia Monday, only one package had been reported found by Muslims some 30 kilometres northwest of Cerska, The Bosnian news agency BH Press said, quoting a ham radio

A Bosnian defence official in the government-held town of Tuzla said bundles with food and medical supplies fell on Serb lines in the rugged, inhospitable mountains around Cerska, an area where up to 20,000 Muslims are

surrounded by Serb forces. Gen. Ratko Mladic, commander of Serb forces in Bosnia, also said some of the aid landed in Serb held areas, "where it was community."

centre before the hlast, "activ-

ity... that we find very interesting

President Bill Clinton sought

Mr. Clinton, responding to

questions during a visit to New

Jersey, said it was not clear

tion was incomplete.

Monday to "disconrage the

American people from overreacting" to the World Trade Centre

and that we're following up on.'

The Americans didn't get good marks on their first exination, so they should try again," said Murat Efendic, head of an association of eastern Bosnians as he monitored ham radio exchanges in Saraievo.

Ismet Mustafic, a ham radio operator in Cerska, said Serb militiamen and tanks entered part of the region early Monday after a night's bombardment by artillery. Thousands of villagers fied to nearby woods, valleys and mountains, be said.

"Cerska is burning... they are attacking from all sides, on all lines," said Mr. Mustafic, adding that government forces would try to hold open a corridor toward Sarajevo so people could escape.

Serb troops reportedly overran seven villages outside Cerska on Sunday. Bosnian radio said Monday that 300 civilians were shot or burned to death in those villages, but the report could not be veri-

Meanwhile, Bosnian Croat forces said Monday they were enforcing a blockade of supply convoys for their estranged Muslim allies despite Bosnian govern-ment reports that it had been lifted.

The Croatian Defence Council (HVO), the autonomous Bosnian Croat militia force, said it was halting about half of the Muslimled government army's traffic between the Croatian border and

central Bosnia.

Muslims resent the HVO's transformation of southwest Bosnia where it predominates into a protectorate of neighbouring Croatia despite a large Muslim

ican people from overreacting to television reported. delegates were unable to depart for Ethiopia. Angolan General Knade

relief columns are resuming their march on the besieged Angolan city of Huambo where at least 10,000 people have been killed in two months of fighting, state television said. The television late Monday

march on besieged Huambo

Angolan relief columns resume

quoted military sources as saying the columns, which were being harassed by UNITA rebels, had observed a truce while attempts were made to resume peace talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis But the march was resuming

because Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) failed to turn up in Addis Ababa, forcing abandonment of the talks. "As nothing was achieved in

lar in the city (AFP photo)

LUANDA (R) — Government

columns will continue their march towards the city of Huambo," the The rebels said fighting for

SEOUL (R) — German Chancel-lor Helmnt Kohl gazed out over the world's last cold war frontier

Tuesday and said he wanted to share his experience of national

on the final str

Asian to

North Ko.

terms of a ceasefire, the military

guela, told Reuters at the

Payame, who is directing a relief column from the coastal of Benweekend that his men would get to Huambe "at all costs" despite their snail's pace advance of at most 10 kilometres a day. The battle for Huambo, once

Sarajevo youth throws a stone at a passing U.N. vehicle. The U.N. operation has long been unpopu-

UNITA's headquarters in the central highlands, is the most symbolic in the war which resumed with imprecedented ferocity after Mr. Savimbi rejected his September election defeat and May 1991 peace accords which had ended 16 years of war.

The two sides have pounded Huambo to rubble and international aid workers believe the government estimate of 10,000 civilian dead is conservative.

Bodies lie decomposing in buildings and on the streets. Food and water are runing out and of the trapped civilians face death every said.

(WFP) said Friday that urgent relief flights were needed to Huambo to ferry in supplies, treat the thousands of wounded and bury the dead. France regretted the cancella-

time they venture nut.

The World Food Programme

tion of Angola peace talks Monday, saying "full responsibility" lies with UNITA rebels who failed to show up. Foreign Ministry spokesman

Daniel Bernard said everything must be done to "end the logic of war in Angola and create conditions for a true, lasting cease-

On Sunday, U.N. envoy Margaret Anstee gave the rebels an ultimatum to send representatives to Addis Ababa hy 9 a.m. Monday or the talks would be cancelled.

"We feel that UNITA bears full responsibility for the failure of this meeting," Mr. Bernard

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N. Zealand mothers ordered to guard bables

AUCKLAND (R) - New mothers at an Auckland hospital were instructed Tuesday not to leave their babies untended after a five-day-old boy was snatched from his cradle. James Collins was taken while his mother was out of her room at Auekland's National Women's Hospital Monday. Gaye Tozer, manager of women's health at the hospital, said mothers would be told to take their babies to the bospital nursery if they were leaving their room. Police said they were continuing their search for the baby.

McCartney arrives in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) - Paul McCartney arrived Monday for the start of a world tour during which be will play songs from his days as a Beatle as well as later hits as soloist and with his 1970s band, Wings. McCartney will have his first concert in Perth Friday followed by shows in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Auckland, New Zealand, before leaving for the United States and Canada and finally, Europe. He has played only twice before in Australia - with the Beatles in 1966 and with wings in 1975. In a statement released by his Australian publicist last week, McCartney said his world tour would draw attention to environmental issues, such as the bole in the ozone layer. He said voters worldwide should support politicians committed to cleaning up the environment. "Politics should go beyond the matters of one country, politics should be addressed to the planet," he said.

Topless protesters acquitted

KITCHENER, Ontario (AP) --Five women arrested for baring their breasts at a rally were found innocent Monday of committing an indecent act. "This was within the community's standard of tolerance," Judge Katie McGo-wan said of the women's conduct at a demonstration at a city park in July. The five women were among 1,000 people protesting the conviction of Owen Jacob, a student who was charged a year earlier for walking topless in the town of Guelph, Judge McGowan said she based her decision on witnesses who testified Canadians could tolerate the sight of a woman's bare breasts in public and also on a police videotape. 'No one shown on the video appears to be offended or titillated," she told the provincial division of Ontario court.

Burgiars take \$1.68 million in furs

HONG KONG (AP) — Burglars snatched more than 13 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.68 million) worth of mink furs from a warehouse near the Chinese border, police reported Monday. Police said a warehouse manager way was let down, and it caved in reported the theft after discoverunder the pressure, police said. ing the padlock to the building in Thirty-three bodies were re-Lok Ma Chan had been broken over the weekend. Noarrests have been made. It wasn't immediately clear whether the minks were raw materials or ready-to-wear garments. Nur was it clear whether the haul was the largest-ever theft of furs in this British colony, the world's biggest producer of fur

This story must have been leeked

LOS ANGELES (R) - What's in a name? Quite a bit, says a group representing Americans of Welsh origin. The organisation sued some of the United States' major news organisations in a bid to have them stop using the word "welsh" as a derogatory term meaning "to fail to pay a wager or debt or to fulfil an obligation." The Robin Hood Foundation and the Welsh American/TWM Sion Cati Red Dragon Legal Defence Fund sued such publications as Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal, saying such a fighting word "should be declared...outside of constitutional free speech protection."

Helped out of a jam

TOKYO (R) - A drunk who slipped and trapped his head between a railway carriage and the station platform owes his life to 50 fellow passengers who tilted the wagon. The 68-year-old man fell into the gap as the train began to pull out of Bentencho station in Osaka Sunday, a spokesman for West Japan Railway said. The driver hit the hrakes, wedging the man's head against the platform. and a passenger who tried to pull him gave up when he cried out in pain. About 50 passengers then formed a rescue team to tilt the carriage. The man escaped with

Mr. Clinton said. "I am very concerned about it but 1 Huambo was so intense that their think it is also important that we If it was a terrorist act and "you Kohl visits Korea's cold war frontier stop doing what you are doing, they have won half the battle, ...1

would plead with the American people and the good people of New York to keep your courage up and go on about your lives." He said he had placed the

whether the bombing was a terresources of several federal agenrorist act because the investigacies at the disposal of New York authorities investigating Friday's But, even if it does turn out to explosion.

not overreact."

have been an act of terrorists, Mr. Chinton said be was in Mr. Clinton urged Americans not "We've been very blessed in other agencies involved in the

kinds of terrorist acts that have gripped other countries," he said.
"I would discourage the Amerof the victims and those injured.

this country to be free of the effort. Mr. Clinton reite ated his sor-

American aide leaves U.N., complains of mismanagement

is hobbled 'by antiquated manage-ment, staff patronage and "almost surreal" budget prac-

Dick Thornburgh, the highest ranking American at the United Nations, warned in a report to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that if the problems were not fixed, the world body would not be able to meet the increasing demands placed upon it after the end of the cold war.

Mr. Thumburgh, a former U.S. attorney general and Pennsylvania governor, stepped down Monday as undersecretary-gener-

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An al of the U.N. Department of outgoing U.S. official at the United Nations says the world body ment, where he was assigned to

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that lead to "too much 'deadwood'

performance and to sanction subminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspec

Administration and Management, where he was assigned to fight bureaucratic excess and corruption. He had served on a one year contract, which ended Monday.

doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too . He said U.N. managers lack

the power "to reward superior standard performance." He retor general as a permanent watch-dog against abuses.

kilometres north of Scoul. The man who presided over German unification after the collapse of communism in the east

inspections before along able to improve relations with Bonn.

He toured the village of Panmunjum, a clus. of official buildings on the beavuy-fortified inter/Korean border about 40

five-nation

· aunist

ot nuclear

climbed the "peace pagoda" to

get a view into North Korea, one of the world's most reclusive states and one of its last hardline Communist bastions. There he was briefed on the

reunification with the divided people of Korea. mostly fruitless talks on unification between delegates of the two The division of a nation is like cutting a living body in half," Mr. But, Mr. Kohl, in South Korea tant and historic meeting place," Mr. Kohl said. "That is because

we Germans know the pain of the Koreans and understand it much more than other nations." Before his trip to the border,

.Mr. Kohl held an 80-minute meeting with South Korea's President Kim Young-Sam, who was sworn in only last Thursday, Mr. Kohl called on the North to be open about its nuclear prog-

"We urge North Korea to accept mutual nuclear inspec-

conference. "We believe that is a precondition for normalising relations (between North Korea and South Korea and its allies bearea, the venue for periodic and

lieve North Korea is close to building a nuclear bomb and that Pyongyang is dragging its feet over allowing inspections by international authorities or by southern officials.

"The reunification of Germany has given the Korean people, who still suffer from national division, hope and courage. It bas tanght us many things," Mr. Kim

Sonth Korea is eager to learn from the experience of Germany since the two countries share a common fate in their division into capitalist and Communist nations. North Korea has kept itself isolated since the 1950-53 Korean

Congo gangway caves in; 146 drown

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP)

— At least 146 people drowned when a gangway collapsed as passengers rushed to board a ferry boat, sending scores of people into the Congo River, police said Tuesday.

Fishermen, firemen, police and sailors fished bodies carried by the tide to the river bank at Brazzaville Port Tuesday murning. Ambulances took them to the main hospital morgue of this

The boat Matadi was preparing

to carry expelled Zairians from Brazzaville, the Congo capital, across the river to the Zairian capital of Kinshasa. The vessel, an old one belong-

ing to the state nwned National Transport Service of Zaire, usual-

ly carries about 200 passengers. But many more rushed to board it Monday when the gang-

trieved by Monday night, and another 113 were found Tuesday morning, they said.

The ferries that ply the river

between Brazzaville and Kinshasa are known for their only decks and smuglers who jump overboard just before docking to speak their goods past custnms

Yeltsin asks reformist lawmakers to help him in power struggle

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday appealed to reformist legislators to help him defuse his power struggle with Russia's hardline Congress. In his second meeting with legislative blocs this week, Mr. Yeltsin said he would go directly to the voters in an April 11 referendum if the nation's constitutional crisis is not resolved.

"Russia is going through one of the hardest episodes in postwar history," Mr. Yeltsin said in a speech to the reformist Democratic Choice group of lawmakers at Moscow's President Hotel,

He warned that Russia could expect hardline forces to come to power through the Congress of People's Deputies, the Communist-dominated parliament that is the uation's highest legislative

body.
"These forces will bring about a reversal of the reforms to which people already have become accustomed," Mr. Yeltsin said.
He said he would like to see Russia return to the constitution it had last April, before Congress added amendments that have

sapped executive powers. Mr. Yeltsin and his main political rival, legislative Speaker Rusian Khasbulatov, are engaged in a bitter battle over the division of power that was left unresolved following the Soviet Union's col-lapse in 1991. The Congress will meet on

March 10 to discuss his proposals for sharing power with the legisla-tive branch, he said.

If accepted by Congress, the proposals will "solve the constitu-

tional deadlock we are in," Mr. Yeltsin said. If Congress refuses to accept the agreement, he vowed to

appeal directly to the people. Mr. Yeltsin first proposed the nationwide referendum in December, after the Congress rejected his choice for prime minister, reformist Yegor Gaidar. In a speech Sunday to the

Congress' influential Civic Union bloc of industrialists, Mr. Yeltsin criticised the Congress for trying to become a parallel government and appropriating presidential Meanwhile, top defence offi-cials from six former Soviet re-

publics have recommended forming a NATO type military council to ensure collective security and defence among members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an official said Monday. The six also will encourage the

other four CIS states to join the collective Security Council, Com-monwealth Military Commander

Yevgeny Shaposhnikov told re-

The council initially would be comprised of the presidents and prime ministers of the six countries, as well as two Commonwealth Defence and Foreign Ministry representatives, Mr. Shaposhnikov said.

The Supreme Command of Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Ta-jikistan would be directly subordinate to the council, making it resemble the structure of the NATO alliance, Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

The former Red Army has split up - with Russia inheriting the bulk of its forces - since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Commonwealth military that followed in its place has been struggling to restore some coordination among the 10 CIS

"Our structures at present are not equal to the task of ensuring collective security and defence. Marshal Shaposhnikov told a news conference. Therefore, it is important to make sure these questions are dealt with not only by military structures, but also by political ones."

The defence officials and Marshal Shaposhnikov met Saturday

to draft the proposal. The plan is subject to approval by the six heads of state, all of whom signed a collective security agreement last May in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. It will be submitted for final ratification at the next Commonwealth summit, scheduled for April 28 in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The Commonwealth includes all the former Soviet republics, except Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Baltie states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The original security agree-

ment committed member states to protecting fellow members against aggression, but it was unclear whether it envisioned their involvement in wars such as that between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed province of Nagorno-Karabakh,

"(It) places us in a very com-plex situation," Marshal Shapostmikov said.

He said the proposal also calls for a unified armed forces, which in peacetime would "function in line with plans drawn up by the respective defence ministries, and in wartime, with plans drawn up by the collective security bodies. He said the structure of the new . council would resemble

NATO's, but that Russia and Uzbekistan had suggested fallowing one aspect of the Warsaw Pact model: Putting Russia's defence minister in charge of the unified armed forces. This would demote Marshal Shaposhnikov tn Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's deputy.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said that although he wanted Russia to play a dominant role in the new council, he add the four other defence officials preferred the NATO model, where the Commonwealth commander answers only to the council of the heads of

"We cannot reduce the role of Russia, but we cannot also organise all structures to meet its interests only," Marshal Shaposhnikov said. "I think nobody will argue

against the fact that Russia is the foundation, the basis of the entire arrangement in the military field and so on. I think there would be nothing bad if Russia acts as the guarantor, provided the interests of the guarantor and the guaran-tee coincide," he said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said he also has suggested establishing an "inter-state corporation" to produce military equipment for the council members.

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